

IV. REMARKS

The above-identified patent application is the United States National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US2004/000179, filed 06 January 2004 which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of United States Provisional Application No. 60/438,426, Filed 06 January 2003. In the international application, the United States was designated as the International Search Authority. Claims 1-189 of the PCT application were determined in the international stage to satisfy the criteria as to novelty, and industrial applicability. In addition, the claims were determined to have met the requirement of unity of invention throughout the international search and no invitation to pay additional fees was made under Article 17 (3)(a). Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully requests that claims pending after this amendment be examined as single group in this National Stage application.

The Assignee has amended the claims section in this application to cancel multiple dependencies from the claims and to cancel some of the claims in order to limit the examination effort in this initial application. Claims 1-9, 21-42, 47-53, 70-72, 83-104, 107-109, 114-131, and 137-189 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 10-20, 43-46, 54-69, 73-82, 105-106, 110-113, and 132-136 remain in the case with claims 73-77, 79, 81-82, 105-106, 110, and 132-136 having been amended. In addition, a priority claim has been added as the first sentence of the specification. All amendments of claims are to be done without prejudice and are not to be construed as a waiver of any right to file other applications such as continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part, or similar applications and have the remaining claims examined without any reduction in breadth.

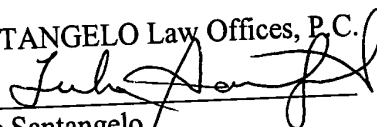
The amendments submitted herein should be understood to be made as a practicality only, and should not to be construed as creating any situation of file wrapper estoppel or the like as all rights are expressly reserved and may be pursued in this or other applications, such as divisionals, continuations, or continuations-in-part if desired. Relatedly, it should be understood that the amendments made herein should not be interpreted as an action that in any way surrenders a particular equivalency, surrenders

any right to patent coverage, or otherwise limits any rights which the Assignee may now or hereafter assert. It should be understood that, unless and to the extent deemed broadened by this amendment, and even as amended, the Assignee expressly reserves all rights, including but not limited to: all rights to maintain the scope of literal coverage with respect to any element as may have existed under the language previously presented, all rights to maintain the scope of equivalency coverage as may have existed under the language previously presented, and all rights to re-present the prior language at any time in this or any subsequent application. To the extent currently foreseeable, no change or reduction in direct or equivalency coverage is believed to exist, and no change or reduction in direct or equivalency coverage is intended through the presentation of this amendment.

Dated this 6th day of June, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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